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PRESS RELEASE
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EILEEN COWIN: PHOTOGRAPHIC TABLEAUS
September 30 - November 27, 1988

Eight large-format (ranging from 24 x 20 to 36 x 46 inches) color and black-and-white photographs by Los Angeles artist Eileen Cowin will be on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art from September 30 through November 27, 1988. Curator of Contemporary Art Tom Hinson selected the works as part of the Museum's continuing series of photography exhibitions in Gallery D.

Cowin's images are carefully staged scenarios of intimate relationships. She begins with a drawing of her idea, then devises the wardrobe, lighting, and props to appear in the photograph. The conventional poses and melodramatic gestures of her models remind one of a film still or advertisement. Cowin often uses lighting to isolate her subjects, for example a man slumped in a chair and a telephone that has been left off the hook. Her images suggest a private moment in a compelling narrative, leading the viewer to fill in the gaps. To add to their ambiguity, Cowin does not title her works.

Since 1980 Cowin has focused on contemporary, often painful, domestic relationships. Her open-ended compositions present such universal themes and conflicts as intimacy, separation, aging, and family bonds.

Cowin's photographs were included in the 1983 Whitney Biennial, and in 1985 the Los Angeles County Museum of Art exhibited nine of her works. The works in this show were lent by the Jayne H. Baum Gallery, New York. The exhibition is supported by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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